Final Rejection mailed October 26, 2011

Response with a Request for Continued Examination filed February 24, 2012

Page 2 of 17

Listing of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1. (Currently amended) A process for separation or concentration of at least one neutral or charged organic compound[[s]] of molecular weight between 0.1 and 100 kDa [[in]] from a feed solution, said process comprising the steps of:
 - [[-]] (a) passing at least once the feed solution containing neutral and charged organic compounds through electrodialysis cell under an electrical field under no pressure differential between cell compartments with pH of said solution being adjusted to preserve the charges of said compounds, said electrodialysis cell comprising at least one charged membrane, and at least one conditioned uncharged ultrafiltration membrane having a uniform pore size between 0.1 and 100 kDa a pore size greater than 100 Daltons, said cell being operated with no pressure differential between the cell compartments; and
 - [[-]] (b) collecting separated fractions of permeate after passage of said neutral or charged compounds through said <u>ultra</u>filtration membrane, each separated fraction containing separately neutral or charged compounds,

wherein an ionic solution circulates between said charged membrane and said <u>conditioned</u> <u>uncharged ultra</u>filtration membrane on the side of the <u>conditioned uncharged ultra</u>filtration membrane opposed to the side on which circulates the charged compounds containing feed solution, the charged compounds passing through said <u>conditioned uncharged ultra</u>filtration membrane in the ionic solution during passage in the electrodialysis cell, and neutral compounds remaining in the feed solution.

2. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said electrodialysis cell comprises, at least one cationic membrane, at least one conditioned uncharged ultrafiltration membrane having a pore size molecular weight cut-off at 20 kDa greater than 500 Daltons, and at least one anionic membrane on the side of the conditioned uncharged ultrafiltration membrane opposed to the side of the cationic membrane.

U.S. Serial No. 10/591,238 Final Rejection mailed October 26, 2011 Response with a Request for Continued Examination filed February 24, 2012

Page **3** of **17**

3. (Cancelled).

- 4. (Original) The process of claim 1 being a batch recirculation process.
- 5. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein said neutral or charged organic compounds are separated simultaneously during performing the process.
- 6. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said <u>ultrafiltration</u> membrane is a cellulose ester ultrafiltration membrane.
- 7. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said ultrafiltration membrane has a molecular weight cut off at 1 kDa selected in the range of between 0.1 to 50 000 kDa.
- 8. (Cancelled)
- 9. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein pH of said feed solution is [[of]] between 2 to 11.5.
- 10. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein said organic compounds are of animal or vegetable origin.
- 11. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said organic compounds are physically, chemically or enzymatically hydrolyzed before performing step (a).
- 12. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said <u>organic compounds emposition</u> flow[[s]] through said electrodialysis cell at a rate of between 0.1 to 10 L/min, and said permeated rate at a rate of 0.1 to 150 L/min.[[.]]
- 13. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said feed solution of step (a) comprises neutral organic compounds.

Final Rejection mailed October 26, 2011

Response with a Request for Continued Examination filed February 24, 2012

Page 4 of 17

14. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said passing of step (a) is performed by continuous recirculation of the feed solution through the electrodialysis cell.

- 15. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein said permeate is an aqueous solution or a salted solution thereof.
- 16. (Original) The process of claim 12, wherein said permeate comprises salts at a concentration between 0.01 to 10 g/L.
- 17. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein said feed solution comprises acid compounds having pH of below 5.0, neutral compounds having pH between 5.0 to 8.0, and basic compounds having pH over 8.0.
- 18. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein where at least two ultrafiltration membranes are used to allow targeted molecular weight separation of said compounds in combination with a charge separation according to charge.
- 19. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said electrodialysis cell comprises at least two <u>ultrafiltration</u> membranes, each filtration membrane having <u>a different molecular</u> weight cut-off <u>value</u> <u>different from the others</u>.
- 20. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said electrodialysis cell comprises at least one cationic membrane, at least one <u>ultrafiltration</u> membrane and at least one anionic membrane, each membrane being separately compartmented.
- 21. (Currently amended) The process of claim 18, wherein <u>each membrane is separately compartmented in to compartments and the pH in [[a]] each of the compartments is different from pH of others compartments.</u>
- 22. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein said electrical field is pulsed.

Final Rejection mailed October 26, 2011

Response with a Request for Continued Examination filed February 24, 2012

Page 5 of 17

23. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein said electrical field comprises pulse periods of

inverted electrical field.

24. (Currently amended) An unpressurized system for separation or concentration of separating

organic charged compounds and neutral compounds in a feed solution, said system comprising

an electrodialysis cell comprising having spaced-apart positive and negative electrodes, at least

one charged membrane, and at least one conditioned uncharged ultrafiltration membrane having

a uniform pore size between 0.1 and 100 kDa, the electrodialysis cell having a first compartment

defined between the at least one charged membrane and the at least one conditioned uncharged

ultrafiltration membrane having a pore size greater than 100 Daltons for receiving a flow of ionic

solution, and a second compartment provided on a side of the at least one conditioned uncharged

ultrafiltration membrane having a pore size greater than 100 Daltons opposite to said at least one

charged membrane for receiving a flow of feed solution and the system comprising no pressure,

wherein the charged compounds contained in the feed solution passing under electric forces with

no pressure through said at least one conditioned uncharged ultrafiltration membrane into the

ionic solution, and wherein the neutral compounds contained in the feed solution remaining in

the feed solution.

25. (Previously amended) The system of claim 24, wherein said electrodialysis cell further

comprises at least one cationic membrane and at least one anionic membrane, said anionic

membrane being provided on the side of the conditioned uncharged ultrafiltration membrane

opposed to the side of the cationic membrane.

26. (New) The system of claim 26, wherein the conditioned uncharged ultrafiltration membrane

has a molecular weight cut-off of 20 kDa.

27. (New) The system of claim 26, wherein the conditioned uncharged ultrafiltration membrane

has a molecular weight cut-off of 1 kDa.

Final Rejection mailed October 26, 2011

Response with a Request for Continued Examination filed February 24, 2012

Page 6 of 17

28. (New) The system of claim 26, wherein the conditioned uncharged ultrafiltration membrane has been conditioned with a salt solution.

29. (New) The system of claim 27, wherein the salt solution comprises potassium chloride or sodium chloride.